



Houston Department of Health and Human Services

Smoking ordinance - where you cannot smoke

Where is smoking generally prohibited?

- In enclosed public places and large multi-tenant buildings (20,000 square feet or more of useable space) unless a smoking permitted area is designated that meets certain requirements.
- Within 25 feet of an entrance or exit door or wheelchair ramp serving the door of a public place and large multi-tenant building.
- In elevators, restrooms (unless separate facilities are provided for smokers and nonsmokers) and retail establishments (other than restaurants, bars and tobacco specialty shops that are not situated in retail establishment malls), spectator seating areas and concourse areas, public meeting rooms, registration desks and copy rooms.

Employers must adopt, implement and maintain a written smoking policy and provide a copy to employees. This policy shall accommodate the preference of any nonsmoker to work in a smoke-free area.

Does the ordinance require smoking areas to be permitted to accomodate smokers? No.

What does the ordinance require the managers of public places and large multi-tenant buildings to do? Managers must ask people (known to be in a non-smoking area) to extinguish the burning tobacco.

Is smoking allowed in any entire area? Yes, in a restaurant bar, lounge bar, tobacco specialty retail shop, a restaurant with seating for less than 50 persons, convention center exhibition area, lobby, mall (other than a retail establishment mall), reception area, waiting room, hotel or motel sleeping room, a room or hall being used for private functions, hospitality suite in a stadium and a specific ventilated area in a large multi-tenant building.

Note: These Questions and Answers only address some of the major requirements of the ordinance.

For more information, call 713-640-4359 or go to
<http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/departme/health/smokingpage.html>